

To whom it may concern:

I adjure you *NOT* to mandate copyright protection on Digital Television. Such protective measures are not only technically ineffective against genuine profiteering pirates, they hamper all honest consumers' Fair Use rights.

We already have copyright laws in place; when the courts enforce those laws (as the RIAA lawsuits have recently begun to show), they will be effective even for digital content. Mandating a technical barrier truly only destroys consumers' Fair Use rights (such as the right to make a backup copy of purchased content) via section 1201 ("Circumvention of copyright protection systems") of the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Please do not make the proposed mandate; in the long run it will hurt ordinary American citizens and not the real criminals. It will be one more step to undo in the future, when consumers come to realize how significantly their Fair Use rights have been eroded.

Sincerely,
Matt Oquist